AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A surgical fastener for clamping surfaces of a plurality of layers of material together, comprising:

a ribbon wire having ~~a substantially rectangular cross-section,~~ first and second ends and made from a material which enables the ribbon wire to be transformed from a first stressed elongate shape to a second ~~unstressed~~ shape of reduced stress upon ~~the~~ release of said ribbon wire from ~~a stressed condition~~the first stressed elongate shape, the first stressed elongate shape of said ribbon wire enabling ~~it's~~the first end to be extended through the plurality of layers of material, and ~~with~~ the second shape of said ribbon wire being in the form of a spring with a ~~plurality of coils around a spring axis, with the coils~~first coil at the first end of the ribbon wire and a second coil at the second end of the ribbon wire, the first coil and the second coil being spring biased towards each other ~~along the spring axis~~ with sufficient ~~axial~~ force so as to ~~enable coils on opposite sides of the layers to~~ clamp the layers of material ~~together along the spring axis~~therebetween.

2. (Currently amended) The surgical fastener according to claim 1, wherein ~~said ribbon wire has~~the first and second coils, when aligned, define an axial thickness and a radial thickness, ~~said~~the axial thickness ~~is parallel to the spring axis, said~~lying along a center line of the first and second coils and the radial thickness ~~is~~being perpendicular to the axial thickness, ~~and~~ wherein the axial thickness is greater than the radial thickness.

3. (Currently amended) The surgical fastener according to claim 1, wherein the ribbon wire ~~forms~~includes a notch ~~therein, and the notch is~~ configured for engagement with a push rod.

4. (Currently amended) The surgical fastener according to claim 1, ~~and~~ further ~~including~~comprising:

a needle for penetrating ~~said~~the layers and having a lumen sized to slidingly receive ~~said~~the ribbon wire in ~~it's~~the first shape and an externally manipulatable push rod sized to slidingly move through ~~said~~the lumen to advance ~~said~~the ribbon wire ~~stored therein~~ to a distal end of the needle to

enable a distal portion of ~~said~~the ribbon wire to resume ~~its~~the unstressed coiled shape on ~~the one~~a side of ~~said~~the layers of material when projected from ~~said~~the lumen by the push rod while another portion of ~~said~~the ribbon wire remains within ~~said~~the lumen ~~in said stressed shape~~ until ejected from ~~said~~the lumen by ~~said~~the push rod on ~~the other~~another side of ~~said~~the layers of material to form ~~an unstressed coiled~~the second shape to clamp the layers of material together.

5. (Currently amended) The surgical fastener according to claim 1, wherein one of the layers is tissue and wherein ~~said~~the first and second coils are spring biased so as to produce ~~between said coils~~ a sufficiently high compressive hemostasis gripping force ~~when said tissue and said other layer of material are between said pair of adjacent coils~~there between to maintain ~~said~~the tissue and ~~said~~the layer of material in sealed contact with each other.

6-14. (Cancelled)